

*Honoring an abiding relationship and  
giving thanks for the blessings the  
couple brings to the church*

*and*

*California*  
*4 DECEMBER 1994*

**COPY: Material located in the  
Archives of the Episcopal Church**

*Honoring an abiding relationship, and giving thanks  
for the blessings the couple brings to the church*

*and*

## 1. THE PEOPLE GATHER

*The people standing, the presider says*

**People** Blessed be our God,  
Eternal Wisdom, Living Word, and Holy Spirit:  
The Source of life and grace. Amen.

*This hymn is sung*

- 1 Holy and gracious God, we bring  
praise and thanksgiving as we sing:  
alleluia, alleluia!  
Your love has brought us to this day,  
your faithfulness still lights our way.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia....
- 2 Through all our years of work and prayer,  
in all the ministry we share,  
alleluia, alleluia!  
led by your Spirit, we have found  
our common purpose, common ground.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia....
- 3 You called us, chose us for your own,

sent us to make your goodness known,  
alleluia, alleluia!

Now we take up this call anew,  
loving our neighbors, loving you.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia....

4 Deepen our confidence in prayer,  
give new compassion in our care.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Fill us, so we may help to feed  
all who are hungry or in need.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia....

5 Gladly we praise you, loving God,  
gladly receive your living Word,

alleluia, alleluia!

Your Holy Spirit, too, we bless,  
one God in grace and holiness.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia....

words: Elizabeth J. Smith

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music: *Lasst Uns Erfreuen* (The Hymnal 1982 #618)

*The presider addresses the congregation*

Welcome, in the name of Christ, to this celebration. You represent the communities of  
, and the families, co-workers, and friends of

We are here to do the church's work of praise and thanksgiving, in fellowship with our  
Bishop, and sharing in the joy of our sisters.

and have been committed to one another for eight years now, in love and  
faithfulness and in shared discipleship. We give thanks today for the blessings we receive  
through the love they share.

and ask us to pray for them, to stand with them, and to witness to them as they witness to us. Together, we rejoice in the goodness of God's creation shown forth as people love one another with body, mind, and soul. Together, we discover how Jesus Christ calls us to abundant life. And together, we recognize the gifts by which the Holy Spirit builds up the Christian community.

Let us pray.

*(Silence is kept)*

*The deacon, assisted by other ministers, leads this litany, and the people respond, all standing*

We praise you for your love,  
Living God, creator of heaven and earth,  
source of all being.  
*We praise you, O God.*

We praise you for your love,  
Lord Jesus Christ, Word made flesh,  
crucified and risen.  
*We praise you, O God.*

We praise you for your love,  
Spirit of truth and unity,  
life-giver.  
*We praise you, O God.*

We praise you for your love,  
Holy Trinity, holy and glorious,  
holy and one.  
*We praise you, O God.*

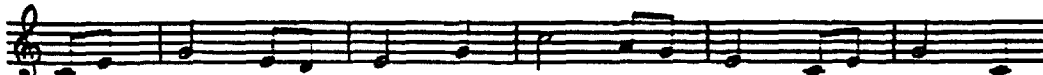
In all our loving we praise you, O God:

In children and parents,  
learning together, and growing in grace,  
*we praise you, O God.*

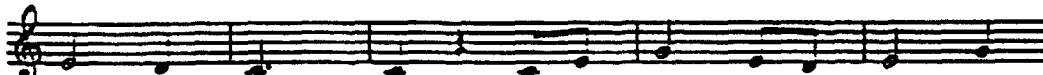
In friends old and new,  
cherishing intimacy, and growing in grace,  
*we praise you, O God.*



*This hymn is sung*



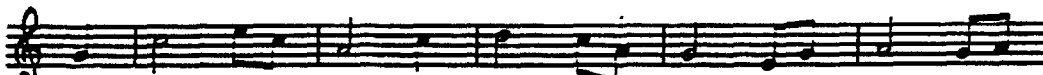
1 My Shep - herd will sup - ply my need, Je - ho - vah  
2 When I walk through the shades of death, thy pres - ence  
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me



is his Name; \_\_\_\_\_ in pas - tures fresh he  
is my stay; \_\_\_\_\_ one word of thy sup -  
all my days; \_\_\_\_\_ oh, may thy house be



makes me feed be - side the liv - ing stream. \_\_\_\_\_  
port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way. \_\_\_\_\_  
mine a - bode and all my work be praise. \_\_\_\_\_



He brings my wan - dering spi - rit back when I for -  
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my  
There would I find a set - tled rest, while o - thers



sake his ways, \_\_\_\_\_ and leads me, for his  
ta - ble spread; \_\_\_\_\_ my cup with bless - ings  
go and come; \_\_\_\_\_ no more a stran - ger



mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace. \_\_\_\_\_  
o - ver - flows, thy oil a - noints my head. \_\_\_\_\_  
or a guest, but like a child at home. \_\_\_\_\_

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748); para. of Psalm 23  
Music: *Resignation*. American folk melody

CMD

*2 Corinthians 5:17-20 is read*

*All standing, this alleluia is sung three times.*



*The deacon announces the Gospel (Luke 10:21-24)*

The holy gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
according to Luke.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

*After the Gospel the deacon says*

It is Christ's gospel.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

*The children's talk and sermon follow.*

### 3. HONORING AN ABIDING RELATIONSHIP

*After the sermon, silence is kept. Then this hymn is sung, all standing*

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

And we see two people living as a community formed and sustained by the grace of God. It is a community marked by forgiveness, strength, and hope. and therefore offer us a sign of the community that the whole church is called to be, a community born of faith in Jesus Christ and nourished by the Holy Spirit.

For all that God has revealed to our sisters, and through them to us, let us now give thanks.

*Silence is kept*

*All say together*

Holy God,  
we thank you for calling and  
to live together,  
and for blessing them  
with faith and hope and love.  
Give us hearts to recognize  
your love alive in them.  
Give us grace to accept the hospitality  
you offer us in them.  
Give us wisdom to grow with them  
in the community of faith  
for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*and turn to face each other. Each takes the other's hands. First one, then the other, says*

N., in the midst of our people  
and with the help of God,  
I commit myself to you again today.  
I love you.  
I trust you.  
I delight in you.  
I will bear your burdens.  
I will share your joys,  
and I will go with you  
wherever God calls us together.



*They embrace each other. They then turn to the congregation and say together*

**Will you support us  
in our commitment to each other?**

**People** We will, with God's help.

**Couple** Will you share our joys  
and help to bear our burdens?

**People** We will, with God's help.

**Couple** Will you bear witness  
to the grace of Christ revealed in our loving?

**People** We will, with God's help.

*The presider says*

**We are the body of Christ.**

**People** The Spirit makes us one.

*The couple says*

**The peace of the Lord be always with you.**

**People** And also with you.

*The couple first exchange the greeting of peace, and then extend it throughout the congregation.*

#### **4. THE HOLY COMMUNION**

*All the baptized are invited to share in the Holy Communion. We use de-alcoholized wine in the chalice.*

*All sit, while the couple prepare the holy table with fair linen, candles, flowers, communion vessels, and other adornments, and present the bread and wine for the communion. The couple will stand at the table with the priest and other ministers during the Great Thanksgiving.*

*This hymn is sung by all standing*

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:  
join the great throng,  
psaltery, organ, and song,  
sounding in glad adoration.
  
- 2 Praise to the Lord; over all things he gloriously reigneth:  
borne as on eagle-wings, safely his saints he sustaineth.  
Hast thou not seen  
how all thou needest hath been  
granted in what he ordaineth?
  
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy way and defend thee;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall ever attend thee;  
ponder anew  
what the Almighty can do,  
who with his love doth befriend thee.
  
- 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen  
sound from his people again;  
gladly for ever adore him.

*words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680)*


*tr. Hymnal 1940, alt.*

*music: Lobe den Herren (The Hymnal 1982 #390)*



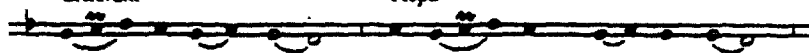
*The people remain standing. The Presider sings or says*

*Celebrant* *People*



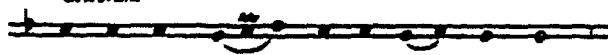
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant* *People*




Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*

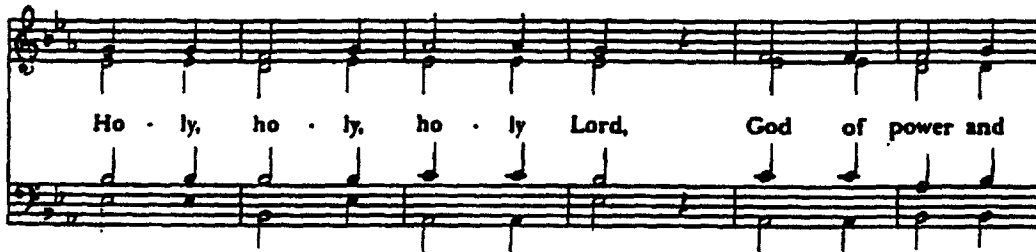


It is right to give him thanks and praise.

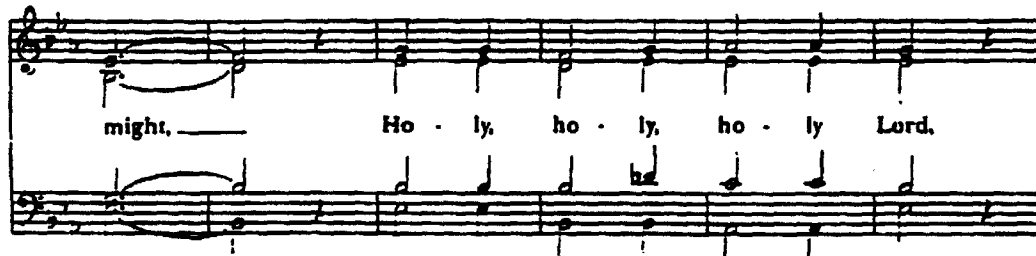
*The presider continues with the prayer*

... we praise you, living God:

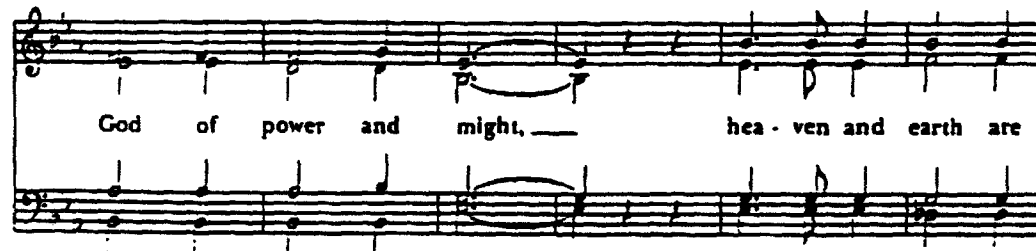
*all sing*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and



might, — Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,



God of power and might, — hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho-

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Blest is the one who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

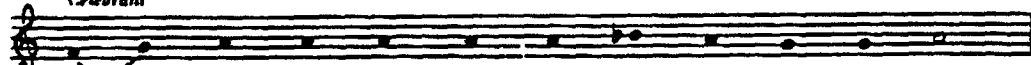
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

*Presider*

O faithful God. . .  
... Whenever you drink it,  
do this for the remembrance of me."

*Celebrant*



There · fore we pro · claim the mys · ter · y of faith:

*Celebrant and People*



Christ has died. Christ is ris · en. Christ will come a · gain.

Setting: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Maxon Martens (b. 1933)

*Presider*

Remembering Jesus Christ. . .  
... for you are our God for ever and ever.

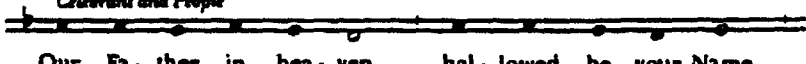
*All* AMEN.

*Celebrant*




As our Sa · vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,


*Celebrant and People*



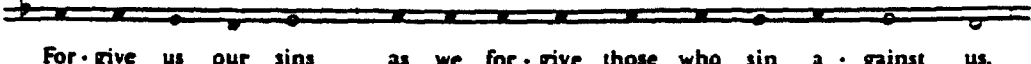
Our Fa · ther in hea · ven, hal · lowed be your Name,



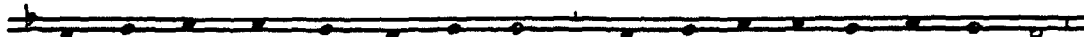
your king · dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea · ven.



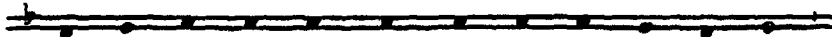
Give us to · day our dai · ly bread.




For · give us our sins as we for · give those who sin a · gainst us.



Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.



For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,



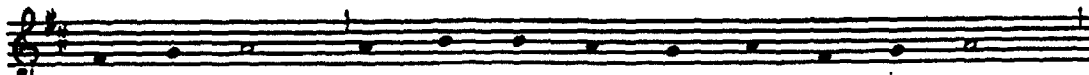
now and for ev - er. A - men.

Setting: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (b. 1933)

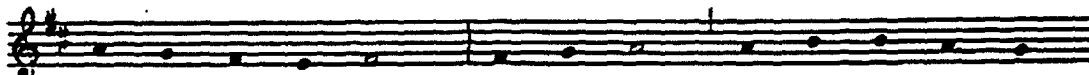
*The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

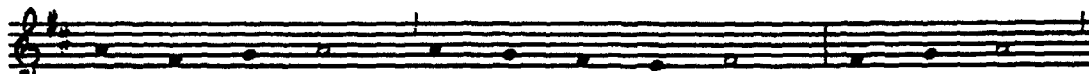
*This anthem is sung*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Setting: From *New Plainings*; David Hurd (b. 1950)

*The Presider says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The clergy, the couple, and other ministers as necessary receive the Sacrament and then distribute it to the people, with these words*

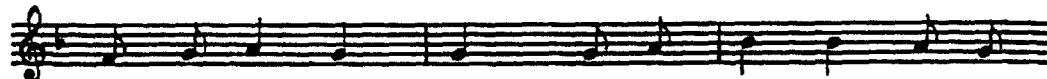
The body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]

The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]

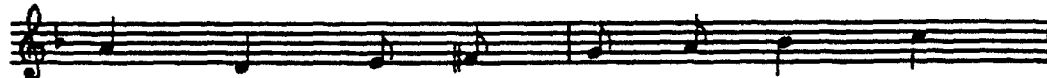
*During communion, the following hymns are sung as time permits.*



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the  
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's Bo - dy, to the  
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the



chal - lenge of her fight, like the vig - or of the  
branch - es of the Vine, to the Church in faith as -  
cease - less voice of prayer, with the power to love and



wind's rush, like the new flame's ea - ger  
sem - bled, to her midst as gift and  
wit - ness, with the peace be - yond com -



might: come, \_\_\_\_\_ Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.  
sign: come, \_\_\_\_\_ Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.  
pare: come, \_\_\_\_\_ Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944)

Music: Bridegroom, Peter Cutts (b. 1937)

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*Chorus*



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show




us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,      si - lent - ly wash - es their  
 2 Neigh-bors are rich— and poor,      neigh-bors are black— and  
 3 These are the ones we should serve,      these are the ones we should  
 4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees,      serv - ing as though we were

*Repeat Chorus*



feet,      Mas - ter who acts as a slave      to them.  
 white,      neigh-bors are near - by and far      a - way.  
 love.      All— are neigh-bors to us      and you.  
 slaves;      this is the way we should live      with you.

Words: Ghanaian; tr. Thomas Stevenson Colvin (b. 1925), ak.

Music: *Chereponi (Jesu, Jesu)*, Ghanaian folk song; adapt. Thomas Stevenson Colvin (b. 1925)

1rr.

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*After Communion, all stand and this hymn is sung*



1 Lo - ving God, you called these two, made them yours, and made them one,  
 2 Ho - ly God, our sis - ters bring gifts from you to share with all.  
 3 God of hope, let jus - tice shine in your church and world to - day.  
 4 God of mer - cy, hear our prayer; pour your bles - sing on these two.

set them in our midst to do more of what the saints have done,  
 So we praise you, ho - nor - ing your grace in this cou - ple's call.  
 Let these lo - vers be a sign that your Good News finds a way  
 Pa - tience, plea - sure, trust, and care dwell with them their whole lives through.

li - ving out for all to see in - ti - mate com - mu - ni - ty.  
 Joy - ful - ly we re - cog - nize fruit - ful, faith - ful Christ - ian lives.  
 through our dark times, that you bless all who seek your ho - li - ness.  
 As they flou - rish, so may we grow in love and u - ni - ty.

1 Loving God, you called these two,  
 made them yours, and made them one,  
 set them in our midst to do  
 more of what the saints have done.  
 living out for all to see  
 intimate community.

2     **Holy God, our sisters bring  
gifts from you to share with all.  
So we praise you, honoring  
your grace in this couple's call.  
Joyfully we recognize  
fruitful, faithful Christian lives.**

3     **God of hope, let justice shine  
in your church and world today.  
Let these lovers be a sign  
that your Good News finds a way  
through our dark times, that you bless  
all who seek your holiness.**

4     **God of mercy, hear our prayer;  
pour your blessing on these two.  
Patience, pleasure, trust, and care  
dwell with them their whole lives through.  
As they flourish, so may we  
grow in love and unity.**

**music: Ratisbon (The Hymnal 1982 no. 7)  
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*Presider*   **Let us pray.**

*Presider and People*

We thank you, God,  
for the abundance you have offered us in this holy meal,  
food and drink and life for all the world  
in Jesus Christ.

Thank you for courage to share intimacy,  
and strength to live faithfully.

Send us now into the world you love,  
and give us grace to go thankfully and with joy,  
in the power of your Spirit. Amen.

*and stand together in the midst of the congregation. The Presider blesses all present, s*

The love of the living God bear much fruit in you.  
The truth of the living Word bear much fruit in you.  
The gifts of the living Spirit bear much fruit in you.  
And the blessing of our God, the holy and life-giving Trinity,  
be upon you, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The deacon says*

*People* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
Thanks be to God.

